

1 NOV 09 1999 MR. VASCONI: Bill Vasconi. I'm a construction
2 worker and I hope not an interloper here, but I live in Clark
3 County.

4 I do enjoy going out and hearing how some of the
5 other counties feel about the -- the topics of the --
6 conversation this evening.

7 I enjoyed the first session. I thought there was
8 some very realistic questions and comments made and I do
9 appreciate the openness of the folks of -- of Lincoln County.

10 I wish we could have this number, per se, come to
11 some of the meetings in Las Vegas. I wish we could have some
12 of our elected officials get up and speak in Las Vegas. We
13 don't have that.

14 I know I only have five minutes. I do have some
15 comments. Some of them won't be popular, but I think I know
16 enough of the folks in Lincoln County. They'll put up with me.

1...

17 First of all, Lincoln County, how big's Lincoln
18 County? About 5,000 people? Up the road, we got White Pine,
19 maybe 10,000 people. But as a percentage basis of people who
20 care about what's happening in their community, they're here.
21 It's their highway. It's their railroad going through their
22 most populated area.

23 Now down south in Clark County, you ask folks
24 what their concerns are, and it starts off by being water,
25 schools, jobs, et cetera. Somewhere down the list is a place
1 called Yucca Mountain.

2 I was at -- you know, you got to remember we live
3 in a city down there in Las Vegas where there's a murder every
4 two days, there's a rape every nine hours, there's a car stolen
5 every forty minutes.

1 cont.

6 Boy, Yucca Mountain don't look too dangerous to
7 me, but living in Las Vegas may become dangerous, but we're
8 concerned, too. We got the same concerns as the folks in the
9 rural counties.

10 Our problem is thirteen of the twenty-one State
11 Senators are in Clark county. Twenty-six of the forty-two
12 Assemblymen are in Clark County.

13 Now believe me, the nuclear waste probably won't
14 come through Clark County. Well, what's the issue? Why am I
15 standing here?

16 Well, I just happen to be one of the folks that
17 believes that this is a national problem, that we do have a
18 resolve, that we do have a viable solution to solving a
19 national problem, and not passing pass it on to generations, to
20 sons, daughters and grandchildren, and I think we ought to take
21 care of it ourselves in a generation that created it and not
22 pass it on.

23 I'm one of the people that believed that Yucca
24 Mountain may not become a dump, but in fact it could be
25 stewardship of a national resource. And you say why do I say
1 that?

2 Who in this room can convince me that coal's
3 going to be around in two hundred years or oil reserves are
4 going to be around in two hundred years?

5 10,000 years? I say there's a possibility and so
6 does the State transmutation, some way to work with it, clean
7 it up and reuse it.

8 I give our educational system more credit. I
9 believe with the technology -- and that's what we're doing.
10 We're building them with today's technologies, today's

1 cont. 11 minerals, today's brains -- that in 300 years, 200 years, 100
12 years, I believe our educational system will take care of Yucca
13 Mountain. It will resolve that problem.

2 14 But until that time, we have an opportunity as
15 Nevadans to maximize on the benefits that could be derived from
16 the fact that not only is it being studied, it may indeed be
17 utilized for nuclear waste storage.

18 We have an opportunity for trust agreements with
19 the Federal Government, State coffers, grants through
20 universities, exchange of federal lands, water rights.

1 cont. 21 I believe we should use the technological and
22 scientific expertise that was developed at the Nevada Test Site
23 over the last four and a half decades and use it to our best
24 interest.

3... 25 Now some of you folks -- our concerns, too -- say
1 we haven't talked enough about emergency response. You're
2 right. We haven't talked about -- enough about transportation.
3 But you're right. But there's a reason beyond what you see.

4 Instead of being proactive, DOE is reactive.
5 There's lots of identities at the Test Site that say we should
6 look to the future, we should get involved.

7 Keep in mind, if your state will not start
8 meaningful dialogue because that's a surrender. That means
9 they claim if you start talking Yucca Mountain, it's a
10 surrender. I say no.

11 But you'll never resolve transportation issues.
12 You'll never resolve emergency responses until your own state
13 and federal delegation resolves the fact we've got to start
14 talking about it.

15 Our citizens are concerned, and I think it would

3 cont. 16 benefit all of us, each and everyone in this state.

17 I have one or two -- do I have a couple more
18 minutes or another minute or so?

19 One of the other things that I had hoped to bring
20 up is the fact that -- and maybe I did.

4 21 You know the NRC, EPA and DOE, they're all
22 federal agencies, so they got to prove their credibility.
23 There's been an awful lot of study going on on Yucca Mountain.

24 A lot smarter people than I am have read it,
25 viewed it and agreed with it. The National Sciences Academy or
2 professors. They say this is the route to go.

3 You know, this is the first repository DOE has
4 done. This is the first repository NRC has licensed. This is
5 the first standards EPA has had to set for a repository.

6 We got to give them folks some credit. They've
7 done a lot of work trying to put this thing together and make
8 it acceptable.

5 9 Now trains -- one more thing on trains and I'll
10 get off here. You know trains, I heard it mentioned earlier, I
11 think the rail transportation probably would be the answer.

12 Some of you folks -- and I might be one of them
13 that disagreed with it going through what we call Area 51.

14 You know, sometimes a country has to have an Area
15 51 take care of some mighty important national issue things.
16 Perhaps a railroad system on a north/south basis, and once the
17 nuclear waste has been hauled to Yucca Mountain, we can utilize
18 that railroad system for the economic development and the
19 geographical center of our state.

1 cont. 20 In closing, I want to make one more statement.

1 cont.

21 We keep saying spent fuel from powerhouses generating
22 commercial electricity. You got to keep in mind that some of
23 that waste to be stored in Yucca Mountain is defense waste.
24 You got to keep in mind that the United States of America has
25 150 nuclear submarines and probably fifteen surface vessels,
1 whether they be aircraft carriers, et cetera that many good
2 thousands of American boys ride on.

3 They're coming home 18, 20 years. You know,
4 they're home. They're home free. That waste has to go
5 someplace.

6 Right now you're shipping that waste to five or
7 six seaports along the East and West Coast. Leave it where it
8 is? That's not an answer. The water aquifers. Leave it where
9 it is? Hey you in the third bunk, move down. We got some more
10 spent fuel rods because the people said leave it where it's at.

11 No, we got to solve this problem. Thirty-four of
12 our forty-eight states have nuclear power. California has it;
13 Arizona has it.

14 If you tell people utilizing nuclear power we
15 don't want your tourism. We don't want to buy your cars if it
16 was made with nuclear power. We don't want your wages spent in
17 Nevada if they were made with nuclear power. We don't want
18 your textiles, your cars, your steel.

19 Let's be realistic. There's a lot of nuclear
20 power out there, folks. Twenty-two percent of the power
21 generated in the United States is nuclear.

22 That's -- in foreign nations, don't want to talk
23 about it. Foreign nations got a lot more nuclear power than
24 the United States does.

25 In closing, sir, I want to thank you for coming

1 up. I believe in a lot of things these folks have said. God
2 gave two ears and one mouth, so I fully intended -- he expected
3 folks like you to listen twice as hard as you talk.